WHIRRAKEE

August 2009 Vol. 30 No. 7

Registered by Australia Post. Publication No. VBH4462

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO

FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
ISSN 0812-423X

Office Bearers for 2008 - 2009

President	Glenise Moors		54396254
Senior Vice President	Richard Goonan		0423 418815
Junior Vice President	Matthew Comer		0409 162627
Secretary	Anne Bridley		5449 3479
Minute Secretary	Jan Orr		5443 5668
Treasurer	Rob Moors		54396254
Membership Officer	Anne Bridley		5449 3479
Excursion organiser	Richard Goonan		0423 418815
Syllabus organiser	Ben Goonan		
Librarian	Diana Collier	(an assistant is still required)	5443 0137
Garden Convenor/Secretary	Matthew Comer		0409 162 627
Hall Management	Maurie Lewis		0407 427179
Whirrakee contact	Sabine Wilkens	e-mail: s.wilkens@latrobe.edu.au	5443 2797

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The meeting starts with a 10 minute thing-of-the night natural history segment. The invited speaker starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper. The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Bob Ruddick, Ben Goonan, Liz Graham, Diana Collier. *More committee members are urgently sought, see page 3.*

Excursions are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. Several interclub field naturalist campouts are held every year.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one sub-group (the Fauna Study Group) and is actively involved in local conservation issues. An **indigenous garden** has been established around the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building. Working bees are advertised on the *Whirrakee* diary page.

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observing: Club members conduct regular bird surveys. Please contact Anne Bridley 5449 3479 or Glenise Moors 5439 6254 for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
To propose bird observing excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front cover photo?...see page 2.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 30, No. 7, August 2009

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

CONTENT

Item	Contributor	Page
Short notices		3
May General Meeting: 'How to make a biological data set scientifically useful'	Lynda Chambers	3
July Thing of the Night	Sabine Wilkens	4
July General Meeting: Speaker Nick Clemann: 'Snake Management in Victoria	Sabine Wilkens	4
Report of the 1st Great Dividing Trail excursion	Anne Bridley	7

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.

Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's Note

Although our Spreading Wattle has been flowering well over this winter, it is always extra nice to see the Golden Wattle come into bloom. However, it baffles me every year how two trees right next to each other can be in such different stages of development, one with buds still tightly closed, while the other can be at the peak of flowering.

Other than admiring Golden Wattle and Silky Hakea this month, in August we also need to alert members to the September Annual General Meeting and ask you to consider the nomination of office bearers for the election. In addition, we usually have a membership renewal notice tucked in the Whirrakee this month, however, this year we will be posting renewal notices separately.

Front Page Illustration – Photographer: Anne-Marie

Some herbivore artist chewed this leaf in such a way to result in this impressive image. It is a pity that we don't know what plant the leaf is from, nor do we know the identity of the leaf-eater(s). The location however is known. The photo was taken in the New England tablelands in the Guy Fawks River National Park near Ebor Falls. This is really beautiful country and some more impressions are shown later in the magazine.

Short notices

Preview for August General Meeting
Wednesday, August 12 at 7.30pm

Presenter: Sean Dooley, Consultant
Title: 'The Big Twitch - Around Australia in 700 Birds'
This presentation outlines Sean's attempt to break the Australian birding record for seeing the most species in Australia in one year. Sean recorded just over 700 species! To find out more about Sean Dooley and The Big Twitch visit: http://www.thebigtwitch.com.

The following list gives the planned speaker for the rest of the year:

September 9, Eric Wilkinson:
'Geology and vegetation of the Bendigo area'

October 14, David Cantrill:
'Charles Darwin – 150 year anniversary of the origins of species'

November 11, Eris O'Brien:
'Native locusts in native grassland'

December 9, Christmas Dinner – speaker to be confirmed

Garden Working Bee

A garden working bee has been organized for Saturday 5th September at 9am, to deal with some more of the winter weeds.

Working bees usually go for a couple of hours (including a cuppa), though people are welcome to give whatever time they can and if they could bring gloves, secateurs, handweeding tools etc. that would be helpful. I usually bring bags and a ute to put the weeds in.

The next garden bee will be on the first Saturday in October.

Matt Comer

May General Meeting
Lynda Chambers had a very important message for the club with her talk in May. It has been a while since then, but here is a summary of Lynda's talk. Sorry it took so long.

How to make a biological dataset scientifically useful

by Lynda Chambers

When collecting data, regardless of whether the person collecting it is a professional scientist or a member of the public, there are at least four questions that need to be answered in order for a biological dataset to be useful scientifically. They are:

1 Who?
2 What?
3 When?
4 Where?

Who

This question identifies which species is observed. If there is any uncertainty on the species' identity please consult either a good field guide or expert. When setting up a monitoring program, it is best to pick species for monitoring that are easy to identify and not likely to be confused with other species. When recording the 'who' it is best to include both the local (or common) and scientific names, to avoid any potential confusion by others that may use the records in the future.

What

Here we identify what aspect of the species is being observed. Is it a simple measure, such as a recorded sighting of the species (presence records or a list of species seen at a site) or is it a more complex measure, such as a phenological phase? Phenological (or natural event timing) phases may include, for example, the first flowering of a plant, the first egg laid, the first bird seen returning to an area, the emergence of a butterfly from a cocoon). The more precisely this information is recorded, the greater the potential usefulness to future studies. For example,

recording that a Crested Pigeon's egg hatched on a particular day is more likely to be useful for a wider variety of studies than simply recording that the pigeon was breeding.

When

This question is fairly self explanatory and involves recording the date of the observation. This information is critical for assessing changes over time.

Where

This refers to the location or place where the observations were made and is important for assessing changes over space and time. Be as precise as possible. In some cases extra detail is required, particularly if repeat observations at the same site are desirable. This may include accurate GPS coordinates or a 'mud map' of the site.

In summary there are a number of attributes of good quality datasets, including:

1. Certainty about who was observed
2. Detailed information on what was observed
3. Accurate and precise date and location of the observations
4. The record is long enough to obtain information on cycles and trends. This is particularly true when looking for the effects of environmental change. In some cases a shorter record may be extended though the use of multiple observers over time, i.e. additional historic records
5. There is very little missing data or gaps in the information recorded
6. Any potential influences on the observations are recorded, e.g. recent fires, habitat modification
7. Standard procedures are used each time observations are made
8. If hand written, the records are legible

Data collected in this way may allow scientists to investigate multiple (interacting) species for a number of locations to enable a better understanding of ecosystem responses to change.

Dr Lynda Chambers
Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research - Bureau of Meteorology
GPO Box 1289, Melbourne Vic 3001
L.Chambers@bom.gov.au
Phone: (03) 9669 4784

July 'Thing of the Night' Speaker: Anne Bridley

by Sabine Wilkens

Anne introduced three beautiful birds, the Chestnut-rumped Hylacola (or Chestnut-rumped Heath-wren), the Shy Hylacola (or Shy Heath-wren) and the Speckled Warbler. These birds look rather similar and Anne gave us a few hints how to tell them apart…that's if you see them, because they are more often heard than seen. To some degree, they all mimick each other calls, with the Shy Hylacola doing the most mimicking. Around Bendigo, this latter species has a very restricted distribution, but where it occurs, it can be common. The Chestnut-rumped Hylacola also occurs around Bendigo (e.g. Kangaroo Gully, Diamond Hill, Mandurang Forest) but is no longer reported from One-Tree Hill (where is once was). The Speckled Warbler occurs along the Big Hill Range but also north of Bendigo, at Kamarooka. Although its call is similar to the other two, it also has a grating alarm call in its repertoire.
These birds build their nests low in the forests, so are susceptible to predation by cats and foxes.
It was magical to hear their calls. Thanks Anne for bringing these shy birds to our attention.

More Committee members needed

If willing to participate in the running of the Club, please contact Anne Bridley (5449 3479) or Glenise Moors (54396254) for more information. Especially younger members are encouraged to get a bit involved.

July General Meeting, Nick Clemann: 'Snake Management in Victoria'
by Sabine Wilkens

Nick Cleman works for the Wildlife Ecology section of the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research. His speciality is reptile and amphibian ecology with a focus on threatened species. Nick has worked throughout Victoria, but also in NSW and well beyond - in exotic-sounding places like Usbekistan, Kazakstan, Argentina and the US.

Snakes generally have a bad press. Not many people like to come across a snake in their backyard. Even though Australia's snake fauna is unique, it is unique in ways that does not always endear it to Australian people. This gives rise to a rather unusual profession, the snake catcher. In Victoria, there are 60 licensed snake catchers, half of which are stationed around Melbourne and Geelong. Their current strategy, when called out, is to capture and translocate an offending snake. When doing so, the snake catcher must adhere to Department of Sustainability and Environment guidelines, which state that native captured snakes are to be released at a suitable place within 5km of the capture site. While this is hard to police, it is also quite unknown what the consequences of these translocations are for the ecology of the donor and release sites, what the subsequent fate of a translocated snake is, and how many of these translocations actually take place in a year.
There are clearly two big issues involved here that require study: The human dimension of the human-snake interaction, which is loaded with our opinions, motivations, knowledge, past experiences and our behaviours, as well as the biological/ecological dimension, which is largely concerned with the implication for the snake and the ecology of the area into which it is released.

To study the human dimension, a survey was devised and distributed to 45 snake catchers and intended for 200 residents who had dealings with snake catchers. Questions for the snake catchers included the number of call-outs they have, the number of successful captures and details about release strategies. The questions for residents were about which agents or organizations had been called, their thoughts on why the snake was on their property and whether further sightings of snakes occurred after a removal.

The response from the few snake catchers who returned the survey (n = 14) indicated that, on average, they received 50-60 calls per year with 50-70% resulting in a capture. The number of translocations reported showed that about 1000-2000 snakes are removed from properties in the surveyed Melbourne area. Predictably, most calls are received in the warmer months of the year.
The list of species encountered by the Melbourne snake catchers was headed by the Tiger Snake and the Copperhead Snake, followed by the Eastern Brown and the Red-bellied Black Snake. Then, there are small numbers of other native species and then a few Australian and even international exotics. Some of these exotic snakes are known to be carriers of diseases, so it is important to remove them from the natural environment. The responses also indicated that most snakes are released less than 5km from the capture site and that some snake catchers continue to use the same release site, while others vary it.

Of the 200 surveys, which had been given to residents (supposedly through the contact with the snake catchers), only 7 were returned. From these few, it seems that resident call the local government agency first, when encountering a snake in their backyard. Reasons suggested why the snake was found in their garden included weather conditions, prey availability, disturbance and neighbourhood environment, and it seems that these reasons often reflected the snake catchers' views. Most residents expected (and did encounter) further snakes on their property after one removal.

So, even from this limited response to the survey, it appears, that the scale of snake removal is large and it is obviously on ongoing phenomenon, while current strategies

are not permanent solutions. This is not just an ecological issue, but also a matter of safety, as sometimes residents will take matters into their own hands and could be bitten or could break the law if killing or injuring the snake. Nick said that in the latter case, it is not so much a matter of endangering these common snake species, but an animal welfare issue. After discussing these human dimensions of snake management, Nick then addressed the identification of these common backyard snakes. Although he was talking about Melbourne snakes, most of them are also encountered in Bendigo and surroundings.

The other big issue is the ecological effect on the area receiving the translocated snakes, as well as the consequences for the snakes themselves. Not much research has been done in this area, and what there is comes from North America and was largely done with rattlesnakes. As their mode of foraging differs from that of the Tiger Snake (the species Nick decided to investigate), the results from this overseas research are probably not comparable.

In order to find out what Tiger Snakes do after being translocated, Nicks got help from an enthusiastic and dedicated Honours student Heath Butler, and their project involved radio-tracking snakes that had been translocated to Westernfolds Park, a 123 ha urban parkland. The size of the transmitter meant that only snakes longer than 760mm (SVL) could be fitted with these devices and this restriction severely limited the number of snakes that the researchers could follow. A small number of resident as well as translocated male and females snakes were fitted with collars so that their movement could be followed.

It was found that the home range of resident snakes was much smaller than that of the translocated snakes (on average 3.3ha versus 19.5ha). In addition, half the translocated snakes left the park and in doing so crossed the Yarra River or roads in order to relocate themselves. It thus seems that this park, which was actually relatively big, was not big enough to contain the translocated snakes and the process of relocating them jeopardized their welfare. Apart from becoming endangered when travelling outside the park, snakes are also more susceptible to parasites and diseases when stressed, and then there are issues of the gene pool, competition, prey availability and liability of the relocating agency, if one of 'their' snakes causes harm in properties adjoining the release site.
What alternative management options exist that differ from what is done currently? Some suggestions include the introduction of short-distance translocation only, as well as the notion that we should get used to 'living with snakes'.
Certainly food for thought here.

The last part of Nick's presentation dealt with snakebite management. This is relevant as Australia has the majority of the world's most venomous snakes. One of Nick's main pieces of advice was to be prepared for first aid measures (pressure and immobilisation of the affected area) but to always take more than just one pressure bandage (one leg might need several standard bandages to wrap up sufficiently). If you are ever bitten, but you are unsure of the identify of the snake that bit you, (and you make it to a hospital!), the doctors there will generally give you the combined antivenom, which has the antidote for the most common poisonous snakes in it. It is not as efficient as the more specific remedy, however. In order for the medical staff to reveal which snake bit you (even if you could not identify it yourself) analysing a swab of the site of the bite can sometimes help, thus never wipe the site of the bite.

There were numerous questions after Nick finished talking, they just kept coming in spite of several attempted interventions. It was a cold night and not that many people were in the audience, but at this point this was a good thing, because otherwise, we'd still be there…

Thank you Nick, for coming all that way to Bendigo on this cold night and making your talk so interesting.

Report of the Great Dividing Trail Excursion 10/7/09

Author: Anne Bridley

Seven enthusiastic field nats braved the cold & wet to walk for about 11/2 km along the GDT south of Belle View Rd (Faugh-a-Ballagh area).
The forest here is mostly Ironbarks, with the addition of Red Box on the higher areas. Major shrubs are Golden Wattle, Spreading Wattle, Bushy Needlewood and Drooping Cassinia. The threatened species, Ausfeld's Wattle was seen among the Ironbarks.
The understorey along the Diamond Hill Race was particularly interesting with many orchid basal leaves, daisies and small shrubs.

My thanks to Ben Goonan and Matt Comer for the plant names and Joy Clusker for the fungi names for the list below.

The next survey will be on Saturday 15 August when we will do the next section of the trail (see back page under 'excursions').

Family		Common Name	Scientific Name	
		Plants		
Cyperaceae		Sword-sedge	*Lepidosperma*	sp
Liliaceae		Chocolate Lily	*Arthropodium*	*strictum*
		Milkmaids	*Burchardia*	*umbellata*
		Black-anther Flax-lily	*Dianella*	*admixta*
	*	Bridal Creeper	*Myrsiphyllum*	*asparagoides*
		Twining Fringe Lily	*Thysanotus*	*pattersonii*
Orchidaceae		Sun-orchid	*Thelymitra*	sp
		Dwarf Greenhood	*Pterostylis*	*nana*
		Greenhoods	*Pterostylis*	spp
		Sharp Midge-orchid	*Genoplesium*	*despectans*
		Wax-lip Orchid	*Glossodia*	*major*
Poaceae		Spear-grass	*Austrostipa*	*mollis*
		Variable Spear-grass	*Austrostipa*	*scabra*
		Wallaby-grass	*Danthonia*	*fulva*
		Bristly Wallaby-grass	*Danthonia*	*setacea*
	*	Annual Veldt-grass	*Ehrharta*	*longiflora*
		Red-anther Wallaby-grass	*Joycea*	*pallida*
		Fine-leaf Tussock-grass	*Poa*	*sieberiana*
Xanthorrhoeaceae		Wattle Mat-rush	*Lomandra*	*filiformis*
		Many-flowered Mat-rush	*Lomandra*	*multiflora*
Apiaceae		Stinking Pennywort	*Hydrocotyle*	*laxiflora*
Asperulaceae		Common Woodruff	*Asperula*	*conferta*
Asteraceae	*	Capeweed	*Arctotheca*	*calendula*
		Drooping Cassinia	*Cassinia*	*arcuata*
		Clustered Everlasting	*Chrysocephalum*	*semipapposum*
		Common Billy Buttons	*Craspedia*	*variabilis*
		Scaly Buttons	*Leptorhynchos*	*squamatus*
		Yam Daisy	*Microseris*	sp 3
		Grey Everlasting	*Ozothamnus*	*obcordatus*
		Showy Podolepis	*Podolepis*	*jaceoides*
		Narrow Groundsel	*Senecio*	*tenuiflorus*
		New Holland Daisy	*Vittadinia*	sp
		Sticky Everlasting	*Xerochyrsum*	*viscosum*

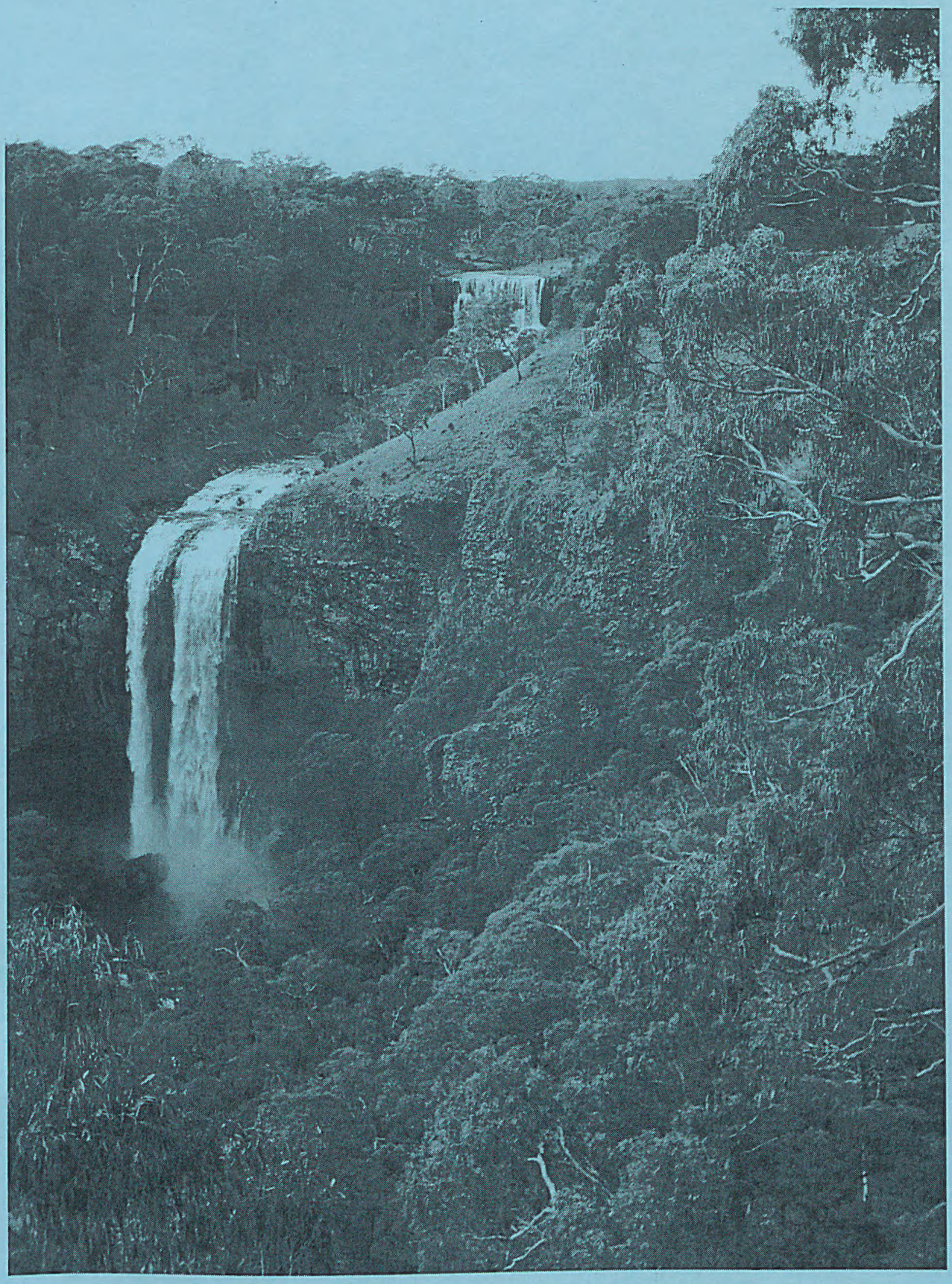
Brunoniaceae		Blue Pincushion	*Brunonia*	*australis*
Campanulaceae		Bluebell	*Wahlenbergia*	sp
Chenopodiaceae		Nodding Saltbush	*Einadia*	*nutans*
		Saloop Saltbush	*Einadia*	*hastata*
Droseraceae		Scented Sundew	*Drosera*	*whittakeri*
		Climbing Sundew	*Drosera*	*macrantha*
Epacridaceae		Honey-pots	*Acrotriche*	*serrulata*
		Cranberry Heath	*Astroloma*	*humifusum*
		Daphne Heath	*Brachyloma*	*daphnoides*
		Peach Heath	*Lissanthe*	*strigosa*
Fabaceae		Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea	*Daviesia*	*leptophylla*
		Gorse Bitter-pea	*Daviesia*	*ulicifolia*
		Showy Parrot-pea	*Dillwynia*	*sericea*
		Common Hovea	*Hovea*	*heterophylla*
		Twiggy Bush-pea	*Pultenea*	*largiflorens*
Goodeniaceae		Primrose Goodenia	*Goodenia*	*blackiana*
Haloragaceae		Common Raspwort	*Gonocarpus*	*tetragynus*
Lauraceae		Slender Dodder-laurel	*Cassytha*	*glabella*
Loranthaceae		Mistletoe	*Amyema*	sp
Mimosaceae		Rough Wattle	*Acacia*	*aspera*
		Ausfeld's Wattle	*Acacia*	*ausfeldii*
	F	Spreading Wattle	*Acacia*	*genistifolia*
		Hedge Wattle	*Acacia*	*paradoxa*
		Golden Wattle	*Acacia*	*pycnantha*
Myrtaceae		Common Fringe-myrtle	*Calytrix*	*tetragona*
		Red Stringybark	*Eucalyptus*	*macrorhyncha*
		Grey Box	*Eucalyptus*	*microcarpa*
		Red Box	*Eucalyptus*	*polyanthemos*
		Ironbark	*Eucalyptus*	*tricarpa*
		Totem-poles	*Melaleuca*	*decussata*
Pittosporaceae		Sweet Bursaria	*Bursaria*	*spinosa*
				subsp *spinosa*
		Finger-flower	*Cheiranthera*	*cyanea*
Proteaceae		Cat's Claws Grevillea	*Grevillea*	*alpina*
	F	Bushy Needlewood	*Hakea*	*decurrens*
				subsp *physocarpa*
Rutaceae	F	Fairy Wax-flower	*Philotheca*	*verrucosa*
Santalaceae		Cherry Ballart	*Exocarpos*	*cuppressiformis*
Stylidiaceae		Grass Triggerplant	*Stylidium*	*armeria*
Thymeleaceae		Rice-flower	*Pimelea*	sp
Tremandraceae		Pink-bells	*Tetratheca*	*ciliata*
		F=flowering *=introduced		
		Fungi		
		yellow stainer	*Agaricus x*	*xanthodermus*
			Collybia	*butyracea*
		Cinnamon Cortinar	*Democybe*	*cinnammea*
			Mycena	sp
		Nargan's Bonnet	*Mycena*	*nargan*
			Omphalina	*umbellifera*
			Omphalina	*chromacea*
		Birds		
		Australian Wood Duck		
		Galah		
		Musk Lorikeet		
		Eastern Rosella		

Superb Fairy-wren
Buff-rumped Thornbill
Yellow Thornbill
Striated Thornbill
Red Wattlebird
White-eared Honeyeater
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater
Golden Whistler
Grey Shrike-thrush
Australian Magpie
Grey Currawong
Australian Raven
Silvereye

Frogs
Common Froglet

Some more impressions from the New England Tablelands…

Guy Fawks River National Park, above Ebor Falls Photographer: Anne-Marie



Ebor Falls, Guy Fawks River National Park

Photographer: Anne-Marie

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meetings

Wednesday, August 12 7.30pm
Sean Dooley. Sean will talk about 'The Big Twitch - Around Australia in 700 Birds'

Wednesday September 9 7.30pm
Eric Wilkinson: Geology and vegetation of the Bendigo area. Annual general meeting.

Excursions

Saturday, August 15 9am - 1pm
Great Dividing Trail Flora & Fauna mapping. Meet at the clubrooms. Bring binoculars, camera, notebook, GPS, morning tea.
Contact Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
This is the second excursion to map the fauna and flora of this trail. For a report on the first excursion, see pages 7-9.

Contact Richard Goonan (0423 418 815) if you have comments, questions or suggestions for any other excursions.

Fauna Group
This group normally meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. New and seasoned Club members are most welcome to attend.

Regular Fauna Excursions
Every Friday morning starting at around 9 to 9:30, the Fauna Group inspects nest boxes in the Spring Gully area. The excursions are led by Maurie Lewis, 16 Vains St. Golden Square. Phone 0407 427 179 or 5442 1813. Phone Maurie to confirm exact departure times and location. If you don't phone but go directly to Maurie's house and find nobody at the house between 9 and 9:30 then the excursion is not on.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.
W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

2009 Kooyoora Wildflower Show
18th – 20th September
Rheola Hall

ANGAIR Annual Wildflower Show 2009
Anglesea, Aireys Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora and Fauna
September 19 and 20
Memorial Hall Anglesea ph. 5263 1085

SEANA Spring Camp – Advance Notice
Friday 2nd - Sunday October 4th 2009
Grampians Retreat & Field Studies Centre
Host: Hamilton Field Naturalists Club
Deposit $100 per person due 31st August
contact: Diane Luhrs 55 723 874 or Reto Zollinger AH 55 712 544
PO Box 591, Hamilton 3300
email: hamiltonfnc@live.com.au

Sunday 16th August - Friends of Box-Ironbark Forests monthly bushwalk
Meet at 9.30am outside 30 Templeton Street, Castlemaine (Continuing Ed.) and carpool to the start of the walk. Bring water, morning tea and lunch. Walks normally finish mid afternoon. Non-members welcome. No cost. This month's walk is at Walmer – a 10km walk through the diverse and rapidly-evolving landscapes of Walmer taking in re-vegetation sites, remnant bush and farmland in transition, farm forestry projects, heritage places, high-value roadsides and a nature reserve.
For more information ring Paul Hampton 5474 2189.